

**OPINION 2054 (Case 3201)*****Scarabaeus punctatus* Villers, 1789 (currently *Pentodon bidens punctatus*; Insecta, Coleoptera): specific name conserved**

**Abstract.** The Commission has ruled that the specific name of *Scarabaeus punctatus* Villers, 1789 (family SCARABAEIDAE, subfamily DYNASTINAE), which is a junior primary homonym of *S. punctatus* Linnaeus, 1758 (family SCARABAEIDAE, subfamily RUTELINAE), is conserved. Despite the homonymy both specific names have been used since publication and are currently in use; they have never been treated as congeneric and neither has been included in the original genus since 1798. The name *Pentodon bidens punctatus* (Villers) refers to and is currently used for a common Palaearctic rhinoceros beetle; *S. punctatus* Linnaeus, 1758, currently *Pelidnota punctata* (Linnaeus), refers to and is used for a common eastern North American chafer.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; SCARABAEIDAE; DYNASTINAE; RUTELINAE; *Pentodon bidens punctatus*; *Pelidnota punctata*; rhinoceros beetles; chafers; Mediterranean; eastern North America.

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**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary power the specific name *punctatus* Villers, 1789, as published in the binomen *Scarabaeus punctatus*, is hereby ruled to be not invalid by reason of being a junior primary homonym of *Scarabaeus punctatus* Linnaeus, 1758.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *Pelidnota* MacLeay, 1819 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Scarabaeus punctatus* Linnaeus, 1758 (RUTELINAE);
  - (b) *Pentodon* Hope, 1837 (gender: masculine), type species by original designation *Scarabaeus punctatus* Villers, 1789 (DYNASTINAE).
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *punctatus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Scarabaeus punctatus* (specific name of the type species of *Pelidnota* MacLeay, 1819) (RUTELINAE);
  - (b) *punctatus* Villers, 1789, as published in the binomen *Scarabaeus punctatus* (specific name of the type species of *Pentodon* Hope, 1837) (not invalid by the ruling in (1) above) (DYNASTINAE).

**History of Case 3201**

An application to conserve the specific name of *Scarabaeus punctatus* Villers, 1789 (SCARABAEIDAE, DYNASTINAE) was received from Frank-Thorsten Krell (*Department of Entomology, The Natural History Museum, London, U.K.*) on 15 March 2001. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 59: 27–29 (March 2002). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. A comment in support of the application was published in BZN 59: 203.

Despite the specific name being a junior primary homonym of *S. punctatus* Linnaeus, 1758 both specific names have been used since publication and are currently in use. They have never been treated as congeneric and neither has been included in the original genus since 1798. The name *Pentodon bidens punctatus* (Villers) refers to the west and central Mediterranean subspecies of a common Palaearctic rhinoceros beetle (DYNASTINAE); *Pelidnota punctata* (Linnaeus) refers to a common chafer occurring in the eastern part of the U.S.A. and southern Ontario (RUTELINAE).

### Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 2003 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 59: 28. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 2003 the votes were as follows: 24 Commissioners voted FOR the proposals, no Commissioners voted AGAINST, no votes were received from Böhme.

### Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*Pelidnota* MacLeay, 1819, *Horae entomologicae: or essays on the annulose animals*, vol. 1, part 1, p. 158.

*Pentodon* Hope, 1837, *The Coleopterist's manual, containing the Lamellicorn insects of Linneus and Fabricius*, p. 92.

*punctatus, Scarabaeus*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 350.

*punctatus, Scarabaeus*, Villers, 1789, *Caroli Linnaei entomologia, fauna Suecicae . . .*, vol. 1, p. 40, pl. 1, fig. 3.